

Alberta Economic Development

**GLOBAL
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK
2000 - 2001**



March 2000

Policy and Economic Analysis

GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, 2000 - 2001

Introduction

The outlook presented in this report is based on the latest forecasts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Conference Board of Canada (CBoC), OECD, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Kiel Institute of World Economics (Kiel), and Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Although not all agencies have provided forecasts for the year 2001, we have included 2001 forecasts, if they were available.

World Economic Growth

Recent events, such as the much faster than expected recovery in many Asian economies, and the continued strength of the US economy, have made forecasters more bullish on the world economy.

In 1999, the world economy is estimated to have grown by 3 or 3.1 percent, compared with a growth of between 2.2 and 2.5 percent in 1998. Western European growth slowed in 1999, especially in the United Kingdom and Germany. The Latin American region was stagnant in 1999, as a number of countries, such as Argentina, were in a recession, while Brazil's economy showed no growth. The former Soviet Union's economies grew weakly.

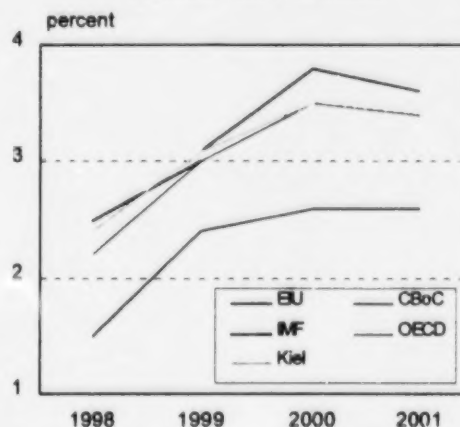
The US economy, the main economic driver in 1998, saw slightly lower, but still stronger than expected, growth in 1999. Most Asian economies, especially Malaysia, South Korea and Thailand, also registered much higher than expected growth rates in 1999. Even the Japanese economy expanded slightly.

In the year 2000, the world economy is forecast to expand by 3.5 to 3.8 percent, as growth returns to Latin America.

Europe, Africa and the Middle East are also expected to perform better, but the US and Canada are expected to see lower growth rates in 2000. Most Asian economies will have higher growth.

Slightly slower growth is forecast for 2001, with growth continuing to slow in North America, and lower growth in a number of Western European countries.

World GDP Growth, 1998 - 2001
Estimates and Forecasts



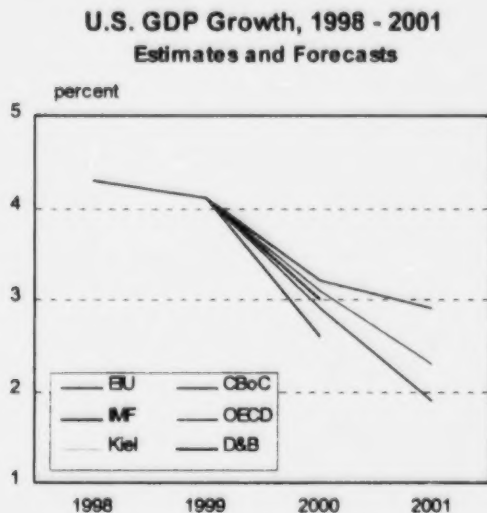
World trade growth remained weak in 1999, at about 3.7 to 4.9 percent. It is forecast to accelerate to between 6.2 and 7.1 percent this year, and expand at 6.3 to 6.6 percent in 2001.

Although a global recession seems unlikely, significant downside risks to these forecasts remain. However, for the most part these risks have shifted from the developing world to the US. This year, the US economy will have expanded for nine consecutive years. Moreover, of late the growth has been largely spurred by a very strong equity market, which is considered to be seriously overpriced. Other concerns include the huge US trade deficit and the prospect of higher US inflation.

North America

Economic growth in the NAFTA region remained strong in 1999. The combination of lower growth in the US and Mexico, and stronger growth in Canada, caused the region's growth to decline slightly to about 4 percent in 1999. Growth is forecast to weaken significantly in both 2000 and 2001. For 2000, the region's expansion is forecast at 2.9 to 3.2 percent, and for 2001 at about 2 to 2.9 percent.

United States



The US economy grew by 4.1 percent in 1999, because of productivity gains and strong domestic demand, i.e. investment and consumption. In 1999, high economic growth translated into strong wage gains, yet inflation remained low. The only explanation for this apparent paradox is that productivity growth has been stronger than expected, perhaps in part because of the benefits of the information technology revolution.

In 2000 and 2001, economic growth is forecast to slow, as a result of a tight labour market, lower productivity gains and slower growth in consumer

spending. Consumer spending could weaken as employment growth will be less strong than in 1999 and households are already spending more than they earn. Moreover, further interest rate hikes and higher inflation are expected.

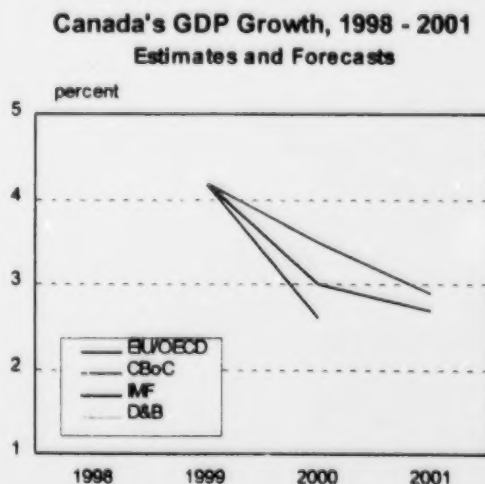
As a consequence, forecasts for growth in 2000 fall in the 2.6 to 3.9 percent range. Most forecasters expect slower growth for 2001 of 1.9 to 3.1 percent.

Canada

Economic growth in Canada increased in 1999 to 4.2 percent, up from 3.1 percent in 1998, as a result of strong export growth, firmer commodity prices, and strong growth in personal consumption and business investment.

As the US economy slows in 2000, so will the Canadian economy, but to a lesser degree. Growth in Canada's other export markets, a further strengthening in commodity prices and strong retail sales will limit the decline in economic growth.

Retail sales will be boosted by the recent growth in real disposable income, which is expected to be even higher in 2000 as a result of job gains, tax cuts and pay equity. Non-residential investment is also forecast to remain strong.



The outlook for 2000 is for growth in the 3 to 3.5 percent range, and for slightly slower growth of between 2.7 and 2.9 percent in 2001.

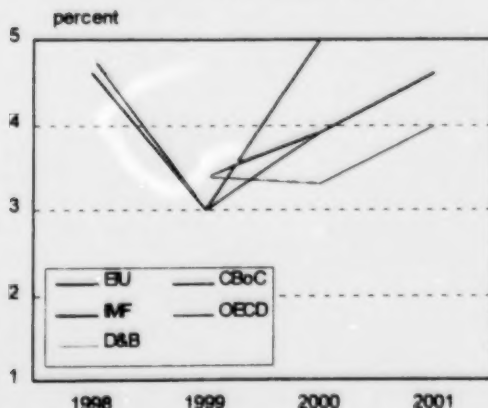
Mexico

In 1999, Mexico's economy grew at a slower pace than in the previous year, mostly because of low oil prices and the global financial crisis. Yet, Mexico's 1999 growth of between 3 and 3.4 percent was better than expected, and higher than the growth rates of all other major Latin American economies. Strong growth in demand from the US, which accounts for over 80 percent of Mexico's exports, caused the upward revision to 1999's growth rate.

The outlook for 2000 is for higher growth of between 3.3 and 4 percent (the IMF is forecasting 5 percent). Higher oil prices and stronger domestic demand are expected to more than offset weaker exports to the US. The rate of inflation is falling, but will still remain around the ten percent mark both this year and the next.

Stronger growth still is forecast for 2001, as prices for oil and other commodities are forecast to remain strong, and growth in business investment and consumer demand is expected to strengthen.

Mexico's GDP Growth, 1998 - 2001
Estimates and Forecasts



Latin America

In 1999, the Latin American region's economy (including Mexico) probably contracted by slightly less than one percent, as a result of the financial crisis in emerging economies, the Brazilian devaluation, low global growth, and weak prices for commodities other than oil.

The Brazilian crisis, lower domestic demand, high real interest rates and low commodity prices also caused recessions in Argentina, Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia and Uruguay.

Although all forecasts indicate economic growth in 2000, ranging from 2.7 to 3.9 percent, there are still significant downside risks in the region, e.g. if real interest rates don't decline rapid enough. In the previous forecasts the greatest concern was expressed about Brazil's outlook. However, this has now shifted to Argentina.

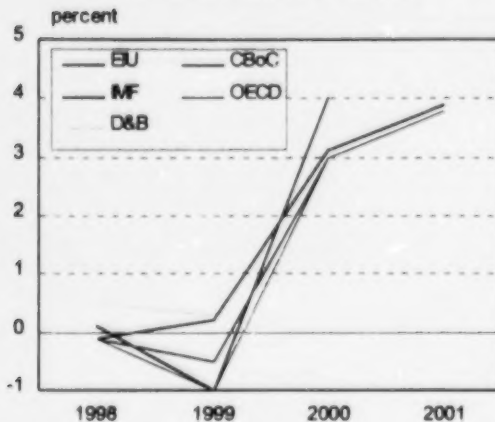
Brazil

The Brazilian economy was stagnant during the past two years, and estimates for 1999 range from a 1 percent decline to 0.3 percent growth. But this is a considerable improvement from earlier forecasts which ranged from 1 to 3 percent declines for 1999. Much of this improvement can be attributed to a very strong agricultural sector.

While the recession appears to be over, high real interest rates and taxes, and weakness in Brazil's major South American trading partners may hamper Brazil in reaching its full potential growth rate over the next few years. Most of the structural fiscal reforms announced since January 1999 will not affect the economy until at least late 2001. Further reforms will be slow in coming because of the government's unpopularity.

For 2000, economic activity in Brazil is forecast to increase by 3 to 4.4 percent, as growth returns to the industrial sector and investment increases. Slightly higher growth is forecast for 2001, as growth in exports and domestic consumption accelerates.

Brazil's GDP Growth, 1998 - 2001
Estimates and Forecasts



Argentina

Argentina's recession in 1999 was steeper than expected, mainly because Argentina's export competitiveness declined substantially, as a result of the large Brazilian devaluation and the strong US dollar. The Argentinian peso is tied to the US dollar, one of the strongest currencies in 1999, while the Brazilian real lost 60 percent of its value in 1999. These two factors caused trade frictions with Brazil and a drop in Argentina's exports. Depressed domestic demand has caused consumer prices to decline.

After contracting by between 3 and 4 percent in 1999, Argentina's economy is forecast to expand by between 1.5 and 3 percent in 2000, because of strong investment and export growth. Economic growth is expected to remain below potential over the next few years, as a result of fiscal restraint and concerns about Argentina's debt servicing ability.

Western Europe

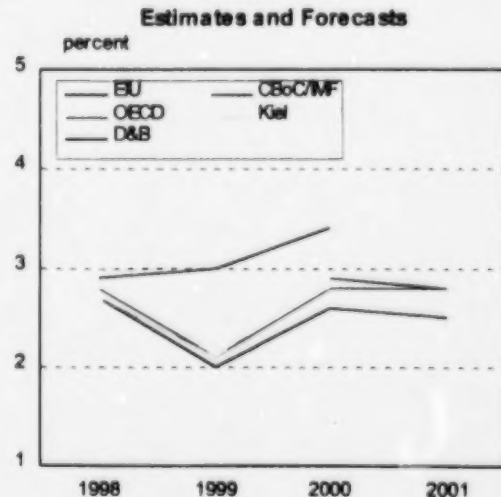
Western Europe's economic growth slowed to about 2 percent in 1999, due to inventory reductions (which reduce domestic demand) and very weak export growth (exports to South-East Asia down sharply during the first half of 1999). However, private consumption remained strong. The economic slowdown was most severe in Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom.

For 2000, Western Europe's economy is forecast to expand by between 2.6 and 3.4 percent, as exports are expected to increase strongly, and inventory levels stabilize. Growth will remain strong in 2001, as growth in exports and private consumption is forecast to increase, and the effects of reduced income taxes in a number of European countries are felt.

Despite the slowdown in 1999, Western Europe's unemployment rate declined sharply last year, and further declines are forecast for 2000 and 2001.

After weakening substantially in recent years, the euro is expected to gain strength in both 2000 and 2001.

Western Europe's GDP Growth, 1998 - 2001
Estimates and Forecasts



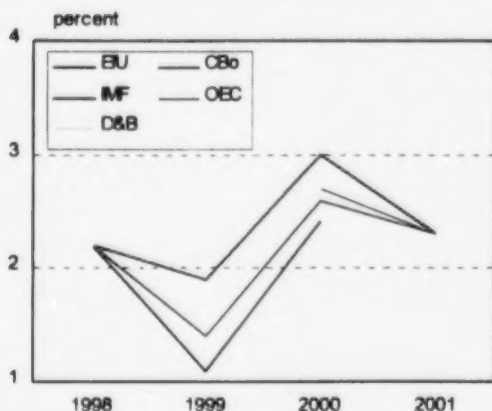
United Kingdom

The UK narrowly missed a recession in the first half of 1999, and rebounded strongly in the second half. As a consequence, the 1999 growth rate will be stronger than previously forecast and is now estimated at about 1.7 to 1.9 percent. The effects of slower export growth and inventory reductions, were more than offset by strong growth in household consumption and investment.

Very strong export growth, the high price of crude oil, and the continued strength of private consumption, will result in higher growth in 2000 of between 2.4 and 3 percent. As the economy is operating close to full capacity further interest rate hikes are expected in 2000.

Although export growth is forecast to accelerate in 2001, the UK's lower growth in private consumption, caused in part by the higher interest rates, will reduce 2001's GDP growth rate to about

U.K.'s GDP Growth, 1998 - 2001
Estimates and Forecasts



2.3 percent.

Germany

Germany experience weak economic growth during the first half of 1999, as a result of lower exports, particularly to

Asia and Russia, and inventory reductions. These factors reduced the 1999 growth rate to between 1.3 and 1.5 percent.

The medium term outlook for the German economy is not as good as for most other Western European economies because of a number of structural problems. Rigid labour market regulations are becoming more of a problem with the further integration of the European Union. Continuing high unemployment in former East Germany (almost 18 percent), and government spending cuts to comply with the Maastricht Treaty's deficit target are also of concern.

For the year 2000, Germany's economic growth is forecast at between 2.2 and 2.6 percent, as world trade continues to improve and growth in domestic demand accelerates. Higher growth is expected for 2001, because of stronger private consumption and investment growth.

France

In 1999, France's economy expanded more strongly than any other major economy in Western Europe's, rising by 2.4 to 2.6 percent. Strong consumer spending and investment, spurred by low inflation and interest rates, were key factors in this growth. Investment grew as a result of monetary and fiscal easing. Because France is less dependent on trade with Asia than most developed economies, exports were hit less hard.

As consumer spending picks up in 2000 and exports to Asia and the rest of the European Union (EU) rise, the French economy is forecast to grow in a range of 2.8 to 3.7 percent, again outpacing the EU's other major economies. Investment growth is expected to remain strong in 2000, before slowing in 2001. Because of lower investment growth and a stronger euro, GDP growth is expected to decline in 2001, to between 2.4 and 2.9 percent.

Eastern Europe

Although the Eastern European economy is improving, no strong growth is expected until at least 2002. Most growth will be export led as domestic demand continues to be weak in many Eastern European countries.

In 1999, Russia's economy had little or no growth and the Czech Republic and the Balkans were in a recession. Poland and Hungary had relatively strong growth. The region is still suffering the effects of the Russian crisis as well as from the Kosovo conflict, which especially affects the Balkans.

GDP increased by about 1 percent in 1999 for the entire region. The CIS (former Soviet Union) region's economy did better than expected, increasing by slightly over 1 percent, as a result of higher oil prices, and output recovering more quickly in Russia than expected. Eastern Europe excluding the CIS also expanded by about 1 percent, as the Kosovo conflict triggered a recession in the Balkans.

For 2000, the outlook for Eastern Europe is slightly better, mostly because of higher exports. Growth forecasts for the region excluding the CIS range from 2.4 to 4 percent, and for the CIS from 1 to 2 percent. For 2001, still higher growth of up to 3 percent is forecast for the entire region. Growth in both regions is forecast at over 2 percent, as exports increase at an even faster pace.

Russia

Russia's economy increased by up to 2 percent in 1999, as industrial production recovered much more quickly from the financial crisis than expected. The improved situation is largely the result of the devaluation of the rouble and strong crude oil prices. Strong export demand

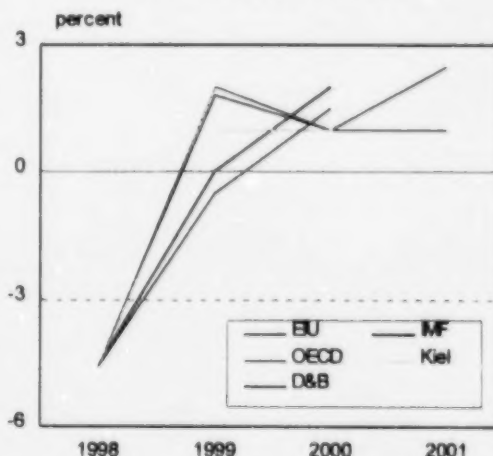
combined with a sharp drop in imports, more than offset falling domestic demand. Industrial production grew by about 7 percent during the first three quarters of 1999.

The outlook for Russia continues to be very uncertain. Political risks will inhibit investment growth. The federal budget is expected to remain in deficit for the next few years. Domestic demand is also expected to remain weak for years to come. During the first three quarters of 1999, real wages dropped by 32 percent. Therefore, no strong growth is expected even over the medium term.

Most economic growth is expected to be export driven. The 2000 outlook is for weak growth (between 1 and 2 percent), as consumer demand and investment increase slightly. Yet, capacity problems may constrain further production gains.

For 2001, slightly higher growth of up to 2.5 percent is forecast, as domestic demand continues to improve.

Russia's GDP Growth, 1998 - 2001
Estimates and Forecasts



Asia Pacific

In 1999, the Asia Pacific region, which includes such diverse economies as Japan, China, India, the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), Australia and New Zealand, expanded by at least 2.3 percent (estimates vary depending on what economies and how the economies were combined). The recovery of the region's countries which were in the recession of 1998, is much stronger than previously forecast.

Growth by major country/trading bloc was as follows:

- the ASEAN-4 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand), which contracted by about 9 percent in 1998, recovered strongly by at least 2 percent in 1999. Only Indonesia remained in a recession, while the other three economies were growing by 2.5 to 5.5 percent.
- the NICs (newly industrialized countries) of Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore, which declined by about 2 percent in 1998, expanded by more than 5 percent in 1999, with the South Korea economy expanding by almost 9 percent but Hong Kong's being stagnant,
- China's economy continued to grow strongly in 1999, expanding by more than 7 percent.
- Japan expanded by less than 1 percent in 1999, after a 2.9 percent decline in 1998.

The devaluations which took place in many Asian countries (plus strong growth in the US) boosted export growth, while the rebuilding of depleted stocks and increased consumer spending increased domestic demand.

The outlook for the Asia Pacific region continues to improve, but the slow pace of banking and corporate sector reforms make a return to pre-crisis growth levels

unlikely. Growth in domestic demand is expected to further increase, but export growth will likely weaken somewhat.

For 2000, most forecasters are expecting growth for the entire region to be little changed from 1999 or slightly lower. For 2001, the outlook is for more rapid growth in excess of 3 percent, with the expected recovery of the Japanese economy.

ASEAN-4

It is likely that the ASEAN-4 will expand further in 2000, perhaps by approximately 4 percent. The growth disparities will also greatly diminish, as Indonesia's economy starts to recover.

After declining by about 10 percent in 1998, the Thai economy expanded by 3.5 to 4 percent in 1999. Economic growth could increase to 4 or 5 percent in 2000, and by still more in 2001, but will remain below its pre-crisis levels due to structural problems

Although Indonesia's outlook is for growth of between 2.5 and 4.3 percent in 2000 and stronger growth in 2001, its medium term outlook remains the most negative. Its stabilization efforts lag behind those of other crisis countries, and political and social unrest continues.

The economies of the Philippines and Malaysia will grow strongly in both 2000 and 2001, with expected growth of 3.5 to 4.5 percent for the Philippines and of 5 to 6.5 percent for Malaysia. For both countries growth in domestic demand is expected to exceed that of the foreign sector.

Newly Industrialized Countries

The NICs are forecast to expand by more than 5 percent in both 2000 and 2001.

The South Korean economy staged an unexpectedly strong recovery in 1999. Increased government spending, inventory re-building and lower interest rates boosted domestic demand, while exports increased. Domestic demand will remain strong into 2000, but overall growth will drop to 5.5 to 6.8 percent. A sharp drop in growth of domestic demand, as inventory levels stabilize, could cause GDP growth to fall to about 5 percent in 2001.

Singapore's economy grew by about 4.5 to 5.5 percent in 1999, mostly due to increased inventory levels. Growth is forecast to come in at close to 6 percent in both 2000 and 2001, as investment and private consumption growth accelerate. Singapore's long term outlook depends on further reforms.

Hong Kong's economy grew by close to 3 percent in 1999, as a large decline in investment depressed domestic demand. It may grow by up to 5 percent in 2000 because of a resumption in investment growth, and domestic demand should grow strongly in 2001. Its fixed exchange-rate system has hurt Singapore's international competitiveness vis-à-vis other Asian economies.

In 1999, Taiwan's economic growth was between 5.5 and 5.7 percent, mostly because of very strong export growth. A much stronger domestic sector, i.e. investment and private consumption, will boost economic growth to at least 6 percent in both 2000 and 2001.

Japan

Against expectations, Japan's economy managed to register some growth in 1999. Even though much of the growth was the result of massive government spending early in the year, the fiscal package did manage to boost consumer confidence. Although the Japanese

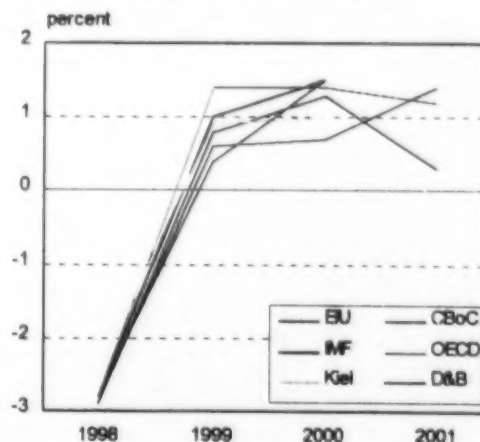
economy expanded by 0.4 to 1 percent, the industrial sector's output was stagnant in 1999.

Strong sustainable growth will continue to be out of reach for Japan, as long as it does not solve its structural problems, such as an inefficient service sector, a weak financial sector (life insurance and pension funds are basically bankrupt), aging of the population, ineffective monetary policy and public debt in excess of 100 percent of GDP.

Fiscal injections are expected to continue at least into 2000, and will boost consumer spending in both 2000 and 2001. Japan's export performance should improve because of the recovery in the rest of Asia.

For 2000, economic growth of between 0.7 and 1.5 percent is forecast, with export growth accelerating, but slightly slower growth in consumer spending. In 2001, growth is not expected to exceed 1.5 percent as growth in exports slows, but private consumption growth increases. Investment is not expected to make a contribution to economic growth until at least the year 2001.

Japan's GDP Growth, 1998 - 2001
Estimates and Forecasts



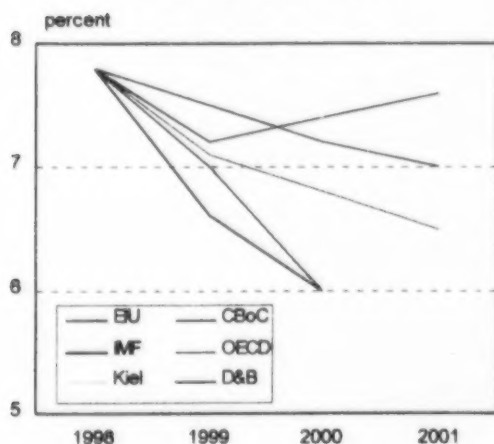
China

China was less affected by the Asian crisis than other Asian economies. Even in 1998 the Chinese economy still grew by an estimated 7.8 percent, compared with 8.8 percent in the previous year. Growth again decelerated slightly in 1999, to about 7 to 7.5 percent.

In both 1998 and 1999, growth in consumer spending slowed considerably. Consumer prices fell in both years as a result of structural reforms, e.g. of state-owned enterprises. Price deflation was a drag on the private sector. Investment growth accelerated to about 14 percent in both years.

Strong growth will continue, but probably at a slightly lower rate than in 1999. Consumer spending will remain weak, especially in 2000, but consumer prices are expected to start increasing again. Investment growth is forecast to exceed 10 percent in both 2000 and 2001, and export growth will be much stronger in both years, as Asian demand continues to grow.

China's GDP Growth, 1998 - 2001
Estimates and Forecasts



The forecasts for growth in 2000 range from 6 to 7.5 percent. Comparable

growth is forecast for 2001, as growth in private consumption increases, because of government spending and interest rate cuts.

The Chinese currency is not expected to be devalued over the next few years.

Australia

1999 was the fifth consecutive year of strong economic growth of about 4 percent or more for Australia. Growth of 4 to 4.3 percent in 1999 was slightly below 1998's growth, because of a very large increase in imports. Domestic demand remained very strong, growing by more than 5 percent, because of inventory build-ups, and strong consumer demand and investment growth.

In 2000, domestic demand growth is expected to drop to 3 percent or less, as a result of much lower investment growth and inventory reductions. After declining in 1998 and 1999, net exports are forecast to increase sharply in 2000, as demand in Asia continues to grow and commodity prices remain strong. Consequently, economic growth could moderate slightly in 2000 to between 3 and 3.4 percent.

For 2001, higher growth is expected for investment and net exports, but growth in consumer demand could weaken. Growth of 3 to 4 percent is forecast.

Middle East

Because of stronger than expected oil prices, economic growth estimates for the Middle East, including North Africa, for 1999 have been increased to slightly more than 2 percent.

The outlook is for much stronger growth in 2000 and 2001, as all forecasters are expecting oil prices to remain strong and homeward remittances by citizens to

increase. The forecast is for growth of 3 to 4 percent in 2000, and for stronger growth in 2001.

Although economic growth for the entire region was positive, a number of countries were in a recession in 1999. Morocco's GDP shrunk because of a drought, but strong growth is forecast for 2000 and 2001. Saudi Arabia's economy expanded in 1999, because of higher oil prices, but at a rate below the population increase. Structural problems due to the country's dependence on oil revenues will also restrain growth in the coming years, and per capita real GDP is expected to continue to fall.

The economies of Algeria, Iraq, Egypt and to a lesser degree Israel, performed strongly in 1999, and these economies are expected to drive the region's growth again in 2000 and 2001.

Egypt's economy is expected to continue to grow at a rate of about 4.5 to 5.5 percent in both 2000 and 2001, as consumer spending, oil income and tourism are expected to grow strongly.

Libya's outlook has much improved because of higher oil prices. GDP growth is expected to be about 5 percent in both 2000 and 2001 after a 2 percent growth rate in 1999.

As long as peace remains in the region, Israel's growth is expected to increase from 1999's two percent to almost four percent in 2000 and 2001. Strong consumer demand, rising exports and lower import growth, and increased tourism and investment, will fuel Israel's economic growth.

Africa

In sub-Saharan Africa, 1999 GDP growth was between 2 and 3 percent, as export growth slowed. Higher commodity prices (e.g. for crude oil and copper), a better export performance and economic reforms have improved the outlook for the region. Much stronger growth of 3.8 to 4.7 percent is now forecast for 2000 and 2001.

The CFA region, consisting of former French colonies, such as Cameroon, Congo, Ivory Coast and Chad, with a common currency, saw growth of more than 4 percent in 1999. The region's economy is forecast to grow by more than 5 percent in 2000 and 2001, because of a strong agricultural sector and higher oil prices.

The outlook for Central and West Africa remains poor because of regional conflicts and civil wars.

The outlook for the southern region has deteriorated lately, mainly because of civil wars and political instability. South Africa saw little growth in 1999, because of low investment and savings and high unemployment. It is forecast to see much higher growth in 2000 and 2001, as a result of increased exports to South-East Asia and investment growth. The outlook for Mozambique, the southern region's strongest performer, has likely worsened somewhat because of the recent flooding.

African countries that are forecast to do especially well include Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Sudan and Cameroon.

Appendix **Economic Growth Forecasts by Agency, Region and Country** **(Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates in Percent)**

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
World				
Economist Intelligence Unit	2.4	3.2	3.8	3.6
Conference Board of Canada	1.5	2.4	2.6	2.6
International Monetary Fund	2.5	3.0	3.5	
OECD	2.2	3.0	3.5	3.4
Kiel Institute of World Economics	2.4	3.1	3.5	
Note: All world GDP growth rates are based on exchange rates at Purchasing Power Parity, except CBoC growth rates which are based on market exchange rates.				
North America (US and Canada)				
Economist Intelligence Unit	4.2	3.8	2.9	2.0
NAFTA (US, Canada and Mexico)				
Conference Board of Canada	3.8	4.0	3.2	2.9
United States				
Economist Intelligence Unit	4.3	4.1	2.9	1.9
Conference Board of Canada	4.3	4.1	3.2	2.9
International Monetary Fund	4.3	4.1	2.6	
OECD	4.3	4.1	3.1	2.3
Kiel Institute of World Economics	4.3	4.1	3.0	
Dun & Bradstreet	4.3	4.1	3.0	
Canada				
Economist Intelligence Unit	3.1	4.2	3.0	2.7
Conference Board of Canada	3.1	4.2	3.5	2.9
International Monetary Fund	3.1	4.2	2.6	
OECD	3.1	4.2	3.0	2.7
Dun & Bradstreet	3.1	4.2	3.2	
Mexico				
Economist Intelligence Unit	4.8	3.4	3.9	4.6
Conference Board of Canada	4.8	3.0	3.9	
International Monetary Fund	4.8	3.0	5.0	
OECD	4.8	3.4	3.3	4.0
Dun & Bradstreet	4.8	3.4	4.0	
Latin America (incl. Mexico)				
Economist Intelligence Unit	1.8	0.0	3.4	3.9
International Monetary Fund	2.2	0.1	3.9	
Kiel Institute of World Economics	2.1	-0.6	2.7	
South America (excl. Mexico)				
Conference Board of Canada	1.5	-1.4	3.0	3.1

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Brazil				
Economist Intelligence Unit	-0.1	0.2	3.1	3.9
Conference Board of Canada	0.1	-0.5	3.0	
International Monetary Fund	0.1	-1.0	4.0	
OECD	-0.1	-1.0	3.0	3.8
Dun & Bradstreet	0.5	0.3	4.4	
Argentina				
Economist Intelligence Unit	3.9	-3.6	2.0	4.4
Conference Board of Canada	3.9	-3.2	2.8	
International Monetary Fund	3.9	-3.0	1.5	
OECD	3.9	-4.0	2.5	3.5
Dun & Bradstreet	3.9	-3.0	4.0	
Western Europe				
Economist Intelligence Unit	2.7	1.9	2.6	
Conference Board of Canada	2.7	2.1	2.9	2.8
Kiel Institute of World Economics	2.7	2.1	2.9	
European Union				
Economist Intelligence Unit	2.7	2.0	2.6	2.5
International Monetary Fund	2.7	2.0	2.7	
OECD	2.8	2.1	2.8	2.8
Dun & Bradstreet	2.9	3.0	3.4	
United Kingdom				
Economist Intelligence Unit	2.2	1.9	3.0	2.3
Conference Board of Canada	2.2	1.4	2.6	2.3
International Monetary Fund	2.2	1.1	2.4	
OECD	2.2	1.7	2.7	2.3
Dun & Bradstreet	2.2	1.7	2.7	
Germany				
Economist Intelligence Unit	2.3	1.3	2.3	2.6
Conference Board of Canada	2.2	1.5	2.6	2.1
International Monetary Fund	2.3	1.4	2.5	
OECD	2.2	1.3	2.3	2.5
Kiel Institute of World Economics	2.2	1.5	2.5	
Dun & Bradstreet	2.2	1.3	2.2	
France				
Economist Intelligence Unit	3.4	2.6	3.7	2.4
Conference Board of Canada	3.4	2.4	2.8	
International Monetary Fund	3.4	2.5	3.0	
OECD	3.4	2.4	3.0	2.9
Dun & Bradstreet	3.4	2.4	3.0	
Eastern Europe				
Economist Intelligence Unit	-0.9	1.0	1.6	2.9

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Eastern Europe (excl. Russia)				
International Monetary Fund	2.3	0.5	2.4	3.3
Kiel Institute of World Economics	2.3	1.5	3.4	
Commonwealth of Independent States				
Economist Intelligence Unit	-3.9	1.2	1.1	2.5
Russia				
Economist Intelligence Unit	-4.6	1.8	1.0	2.5
International Monetary Fund	-4.6	0.0	2.0	
OECD	-4.6	2.0	1.0	1.0
Kiel Institute of World Economics	-4.6	1.0	1.0	
Dun & Bradstreet	-4.6	-0.5	1.5	
Asia Pacific				
Economist Intelligence Unit	-0.3	2.8	2.4	3.1
Conference Board of Canada	-1.9	2.4	2.3	2.7
ASEAN-10				
Economist Intelligence Unit	-5.3	2.5	4.2	4.5
ASEAN-4 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand)				
Conference Board of Canada	-8.8	2.2	4.2	
International Monetary Fund	-9.8	1.4	3.6	
NICs (Hong Kong, Singapore, S. Korea, Taiwan)				
Conference Board of Canada	-2.2	5.9	5.4	
International Monetary Fund	-1.8	5.2	5.1	
Japan				
Economist Intelligence Unit	-2.9	0.6	0.7	1.4
Conference Board of Canada	-2.9	0.8	1.3	0.3
International Monetary Fund	-2.8	1.0	1.5	
OECD	-2.8	0.8	0.4	0.3
Kiel Institute of World Economics	-2.5	0.9	1.0	
Dun & Bradstreet	-2.8	0.4	1.5	
China				
Economist Intelligence Unit	7.8	7.5	7.2	7.0
Conference Board of Canada	7.8	7.2	7.4	7.6
International Monetary Fund	7.8	6.6	6.0	
OECD	7.8	7.1	6.8	6.5
Kiel Institute of World Economics	7.8	7.0	6.5	
Dun & Bradstreet	7.8	7.0	6.0	
Australia				
Economist Intelligence Unit	4.9	4.3	3.4	3.0
International Monetary Fund	5.1	4.0	3.0	
OECD	5.1	3.9	3.0	4.0
Dun & Bradstreet	4.6	4.0	3.2	
Middle East (incl. North Africa)				
Economist Intelligence Unit	2.7	2.4	4.0	4.2

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Middle East (incl. Egypt and Turkey, excl. N. Africa)				
International Monetary Fund	3.2	1.8	3.1	
Africa (Sub-Saharan)				
Economist Intelligence Unit	1.8	2.2	3.8	4.2
International Monetary Fund	2.7	2.9	4.7	

Release dates of forecasts:

Economist Intelligence Unit: Global Outlook – February 2000, country forecasts November 1999 – February 2000

Conference Board of Canada: February 2000

International Monetary Fund: October 1999

OECD: November 1999

Kiel Institute of World Economics: December 1999

Dun & Bradstreet: December 1999